

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

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----- 036776

R 070802Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3387

INFO HQ DEA WASHDC

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE INT'L OPERATIONS DIV WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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STATE FOR S/NM

HQ DEA FOR DEA/TRI

PARIS FOR RD PICINI

RABAT FOR HIGDON

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TS

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM: TUNISIA

1. SUMMARY: TUNISIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED FOR EQUIPMENT IN CONNECTION NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM, AND HAVE CITED PROMISES ALLEGEDLY MADE IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY HAS NOT ENCOURAGED THEIR HOPES. PRESENT LEVEL OF CCINC TRAINING ACTIVITIES IS ADEQUATE AS COUNTRY PROGRAM, AND NEITHER SCOPE OF NARCOTICS PROBLEM HERE NOR NEED FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE JUSTIFY ANY SUBSTANTIAL MATERIEL PROGRAM. HOWEVER, IF TUNISIANS CONTINUE TO ASSERT PROMISES MADE TO THEM, IT COULD COLOR OTHERWISE CORDIAL RELATIONS
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DEVELOPED BETWEEN EMBASSY/USG AGENCIES AND TUNISIAN POLICE

AND CUSTOMS. RECOMMEND THAT S/NM CONSIDER SITUATION, AND ENSURE THAT FUTURE WASHINGTON VISITORS TO TUNIS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS BE PREPARED TO HANDLE REITERATIONS OF TUNISIAN EQUIPMENT DESIRES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCCASION OF EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER'S TRANSFER, EMBASSY WISHES FLAG TO DEPT, AND OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED ONE SMALL PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN IN COUNTRY PROGRAM, AND WHICH MAY STAY TO HAMPER CORDIAL RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

3. TRAINING COOPERATION BETWEEN GOT CUSTOMS AND POLICE ON ONE HAND AND VARIOUS CCINC EFFORTS ON OTHER HAS GONE ALONG SATISFACTORILY. THE JUST-COMPLETED IN-COUNTRY TRAINING OF 26 TUNISIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AND MUCH APPRECIATED BY GOT CUSTOMS LEADERSHIP. IN THE PAST BOTH U.S. CUSTOMS AND DEA HAVE CARRIED OUT APPARENTLY HIGHLY SATISFACTORY TRAINING ACTIVITIES, BOTH IN TUNISIA AND IN THE U.S. TUNISIAN POLICE JUDICIAIRE, WHOSE DIRECTOR, TAHAR BERREDJEB, VISITED THE U.S. ON A CCINC-SPONSORED VIP TOUR LAST YEAR, HAS SOUGHT FURTHER "COOPERATION" IN ESTABLISHING AN UPGRADED TUNISIAN POLICE ACADEMY, CONCEIVABLY TO BE USED AS A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER, AND IN WHICH USG INTEREST IN EXPANDING EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL MEASURES COULD BE ADVANCED.

4. DEA TRAINING EXPERT FRANK ZAGAMI VISITED TUNISIA IN MARCH 1976 IN CONNECTION WITH THIS LATTER PROJECT. LONG AND SHORT OF HIS EXPERIENCE HERE WAS, WE BELIEVE, THE DISCOVERY THAT THE TUNISIAN POLICE ACADEMY IS RATHER TIGHTLY WEDDED TO FRENCH TRAINING SYSTEMS, AND KEPT CLOSELY UNDER THE EYE OF FRENCH POLICE OFFICIALS SECONDED TO TUNISIA. ZAGAMI SHOULD BE CONSULTED IN WASHINGTON ON THIS POINT, BUT WE BELIEVE HE WOULD AGREE THAT IN FACT WHAT TUNISIAN POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR IS FREE AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, FREE AMERICAN TRAINING TEAMS AND VISITS, BUT NO RPT NO REAL INVOLVEMENT IN ESTABLISHING AMERICAN-STYLE TRAINING HERE. THAT'S FRENCH TERRITORY, FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES.

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5. DURING ZAGAMI'S VISIT, BERREDJEB EXPRESSED SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT USG HAD NOT COME FORWARD WITH OFFERS OF EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR VANCE, WHO RECEIVED HIM WARMLY IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS VIP TOUR, HAD, IN FACT, PROMISED TO BERREDJEB MODERN EQUIPMENT WHICH BERREDJEB WOULD ASK FOR AFTER TOURING U.S. NARCOTICS CONTROL FACILITIES. BERREDJEB SPECIFIED THAT IT IS ALL VERY WELL FOR U.S. EXPERTS TO VISIT TUNISIA AND "CONSULT AND TALK," AND THEIR IDEAS

ARE WELCOME, BUT "LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS." THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER REPLIED TO BERREDJEB'S ASSERTIONS BY GIVING NO UNDERTAKING EXCEPT TO PASS ON FOR CONSIDERATION ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS BERREDJEB MIGHT MAKE. BERREDJEB SAID THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE ACADEMY, IN MODERN LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, AND IN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO AID IN DETECTION AND INTERCEPTION OF NARCOTICS OFFENDERS. WE TOLD HIM TO BE SPECIFIC AND WE WOULD FORWARD HIS REQUESTS, WITH NO ASSURANCE OF FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. SINCE THEN, BERREDJEB HAS NOT RPT NOT SUPPLIED SPECIFICS, AND WE HAVE AVOIDED THE SUBJECT.

6. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT RECOMMEND THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL MATERIEL ASSISTANCE BE OFFERED TUNISIA BY CCINC. THERE IS, SO FAR AT LEAST, NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE IN TERMS EITHER OF COMBATTING A PRESENT PROBLEM, OR ENCOURAGING INFORMATION EXCHANGE. THE EMBASSY DOES RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT ANY FUTURE VISITORS, FROM CUSTOMS OR DEA WHO EXPECT TO HAVE CONTACT WITH TUNISIAN POLICE OFFICIALS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, SHOULD BE PREPARED TO HANDLE REITERATIONS OF BERREDJEB'S DESIRE FOR EQUIPMENT. IF IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT VERY MODEST CCINC FUNDS COULD BE PROVIDED FOR EQUIPMENT, WE BELIEVE THE APPROPRIATE FIELD WOULD BE THAT OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT.

MULCAHY

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